

NOTES AND NEWS

VALIDATION OF TRANSFER OF *ECTOCARPUS MUCRONATUS* TO *GIFFORDIA*.—The transfer of *Ectocarpus mucronatus* Saunders (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 3, Bot. 1:152, pl. xix. 1898) on p. 90 of Madroño, vol. 22, 1973, is invalid because the place and date of publication of the basionym were omitted. The new combination, *Giffordia mucronata* (Saunders) Kjeldsen and Phinney, is made valid here.—CHRIS K. KJELDSEN, Biology Department, California State College—Sonoma, Rohnert Park 94928, and HARRY K. PHINNEY, Botany Department, Oregon State University, Corvallis 97331.

REVIEWS

Alpine rangelands of the Uinta Mountains and Flora and major plant communities of the Ruby-East Humboldt Mountains. By Mont E. Lewis. 75 & 62 pp. U. S. Forest Service, Region 4, Ogden, Utah. 1970 & 1971.

The U. S. Forest Service is an honest, conscientious, large, wide-flung, old, and generally expert government bureau that manages the bases of production for much of the West's lumber and livestock industries, the water that is vital to everyone in the West, and the open-space amenities that are indispensable. It is currently being criticized. Local residents object to clear-cutting forests in a travesty of sustained yield, and lumbermen want a larger annual cut from federal lands to brake the price rise on lumber so privately-owned timber will have a future market. Conservationists object to management that destroys resources; commercial interests object to preservation of wilderness areas. Foresters want to convert old-growth stands to "healthy, rapidly growing, managed forests"; others believe the necessary silvicultural knowledge is too poor, call the process mining and the result brush fields. Some emphasize the relief from urban existence experienced in the woods; others say Americans cannot be housed without making 2 × 4's out of the remnants of our virgin forests. Resort developers want to build private country clubs on public land; hikers have always hiked for free. Most western ski resorts have been developed on Forest Service lands and according to Forest Service plans; many skiers object to the very expensive yo-yoing on the pattycaked piste that skiing has become. Organized skiing wants more lift-served areas; many skiers object that touring areas have been preempted for purely commercial purposes. So it is nice to be able to say nothing but good about the two recent Forest Service publications by M. E. Lewis.

The plant cover of none of the mountain ranges of the western U. S. is so well studied that another look by an expert is not very welcome. These two papers are administrative studies, inventories, descriptions made to assist the U. S. Forest Service in discharging its administrative responsibilities, but they also contain new basic information and update older ecological work.

They are the result of careful, long-continued, and perceptive observations by an experienced field botanist. They are basic to management of the Wasatch, Ashley, and Humboldt National Forests. They are basic to understanding the plant ecology of the Ruby Mts. of eastern Nevada and Uinta Mts. of northeastern Utah. They could have been done only by a skilled field taxonomist who is also a knowledgeable and sensitive ecologist.

They both contain checklists of the plant species, 577 for the Rubies and 357 for the Uintas. For the Uintas the species are listed by habitat types, for the Rubies by major plant communities (altitudinal belts) with notes on abundance and kinds of habitats, described physiognomically. Such local data contribute to autecology and therefore to inductive rather than anecdotal descriptions of plant habitats in floras. For once species of *Carex* are decently treated in floristic and vegetational analyses.

The Uintas are not only the highest mountain range in Utah but the largest